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Zenith Electronics Corporation
2000 Millbrook Drive
Lincolnshire, IL 60069

EXAMINER

YENKE, BRIAN P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2614

2

DATE MAILED: 09/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/852,883

Applicant(s)

VORNSAND, STEVEN J.

Examiner

BRIAN P. YENKE

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shintani et al., US 6,532,592.

In considering claim 1,

a) the claimed a host device having a transmitter and a receiver, the host device transmitter adapted to transmit a first signal is met remote control unit 100 (Fig 1) which includes a communications unit (transmitter/receiver) 107 which transmits an instruction via path 102 to television 101;

b) the claimed a television having a transmitter and a receiver, the television receiver adapted to receive the first signal, the television transmitter adapted to transmit a second signal receivable by the host device receiver is met by television 101 which also includes a similar communications unit (106 shown, specified as 105 in the specification (col 4, line 9-18), which transmits a signal back to remote 100 a confirmation signal

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when a valid command is received and then the command is executed, or if the TV 101 receives an invalid command, the TV transmits a signal to the remote 100 an error signal (col 4, line 30-37).

In considering claim 2,

The claimed wherein the host device and television transmitters and receivers are infrared devices is met where the communications between the remote 100 and TV 101 may be infra-red (IR).

In considering claim 4,

The claimed wherein the host device is a television remote control unit is met by remote control unit 100 which controls the television 101 (Fig 1).

In considering claim 9,

The claimed wherein the host device further includes a processor adapted to control at least one peripheral device is met by remote control unit 100 (Fig 4), where additional peripheral devices can integrating into the television entertainment system (col 5, line 30-35).

In considering claim 11,

The claimed wherein the peripheral device is a digital video disc player is met where the peripheral device is a mini-disk player (MDP) (col 5, line 30-49).

In considering claim 12,

The claimed wherein the host device further includes an input device is met by the remote control unit 100 which includes a device/keys/buttons 104 (Fig 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2a. Claims 3, 13, 15 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shintani et al., US 6,532,592 in view of Schindler et al., US 5,900,867.

In considering claims 3 and 30 ,

Shintani does not disclose the use of a personal computer as the host device.

Shintani discloses the use of a remote 101 ideally with a display and with keys 104 to transmit/receive information to/from the TV 100 and other peripheral devices that are integrated into the entertainment system.

The incorporation of a PC (personal computer) or home computer into an entertainment system is conventional in the art.

Thus, the examiner takes incorporates Schindler et al., US 5,900,867, which discloses a personal computer 118 which is able to transmit/receive information to centrally controlled entertainment system 110 (Fig 1).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify/utilize in Shintani which discloses a system where a

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remote can transmit/receive information to/from a TV and integrated peripheral devices to also integrate a PC/home computer into the entertainment system to transmit/receive information from the television to provide the user the ability to control not only a personal computer if available but also the TV and other peripheral devices via the PC/home computer, thereby providing the user a PC with full remote functionality.

In considering claim 13,

Shintani does not explicitly disclose a keyboard on the remote.

Shintani does disclose a remote which includes a remote control unit 100 which includes a device/keys/buttons 104 (Fig 1).

The use of a remote which includes a keyboard is conventional in the art, where remotes can vary in sizes/functionality based in the needs of the user/system.

Thus, the examiner incorporates Schindler et al., US 5,900,867, which discloses a remote keyboard 126 (Fig 10), which is used to remotely control the entertainment system 110 (col 14, line 42-64).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Shintani which discloses a remote which includes multiple keys/buttons (104), with Schindler to also provide the user a remote keyboard, to provide the user a remote which includes a multitude of keys/buttons/functions in a traditional keyboard fashion to aid the user in controlling the entertainment system.

In considering claim 15,

Shintani discloses a system where the input device (keys) on remote 100 may communicate with TV 101 may be any appropriate type of signaling, i.e. infra-red (IR), radio-frequency (RF), ultra-sonic signaling, or combinations thereof are all acceptable and equivalent methods (col 4, line 9-19).

The use of a protocol (i.e. computer protocol/standard) to transmit/receive control information in a entertainment system (user viewing environment) is conventional in the art.

Thus, the examiner incorporates Schindler et al., US 5,900,867, which discloses a personal computer 118 which is able to transmit/receive information to a centrally controlled entertainment system 110 (Fig 1), which also includes a keyboard remote 126 which is able to transmit information to the personal computer. Although, Schindler does not explicitly recite "computer protocol", Schindler does disclose transmitting/receiving information via a personal computer 188, thus Schindler does utilize a protocol (method/procedure to communicate) to communicate with a computer.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify, Shintani which discloses a remote 100 which may communicate with TV 101 with any appropriate type of signaling, i.e. infra-red (IR), radio-frequency (RF), ultra-sonic signaling, or combinations thereof to utilize/employ a protocol which is used by computers, as done by Schindler to provide the user the ability to incorporate a home computer/PC into the entertainment system and thus being able to control the entertainment system and computer.

2b. Claims 5-6, 10,16-18, 25-27 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shintani et al., US 6,532,592.

In considering claim 5,

a) the claimed wherein the first signal is a command signal instructing the television to perform a function is met by remote control unit 100 which transmits a command signal via path 102 to TV 101 (Fig 1).

However, Shintani does not disclose a second signal which confirms that the television performed the function.

Shintani discloses that the television sends a confirmation signal (second signal) to remote 100 to confirm the receipt of a valid signal and then the TV 101 executes the command (1st signal). Shintani also discloses that if the TV 101 receives an invalid command, the TV signals the remote 100 with an error signal (2nd signal), and the TV also signals the remote when the TV requires additional input in order to execute (col 2, line 47-56).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Shintani which discloses the acknowledgment of a valid or invalid signal and then executes the command, by also transmitting a confirmation signal that the executed command has been completed, to additionally confirm to the user that the valid command to be executed has been performed.

In considering claim 6,

As stated above, with respect to claim 5, Shintani did not disclose the transmitting a signal which confirms the television performed the function (command from remote). Shintani does disclose the transmitting/receiving of signals via communication line 102, which may be IR, RF, ultra-sonic or combinations thereof. Shintani also discloses the incorporation of peripheral devices into the entertainment system, being controlled by the remote and television.

The claimed processor is met by the television 101 which receives, transmits and processes the signals between the peripheral devices and the remote.

Although, Shintani does not explicitly disclose a timer, Shintani does disclose the control via transmission/reception of peripheral devices which are integrated into the entertainment system, thereby being able to control multiple devices in a logical/desired sequence.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Shintani which discloses the acknowledgment of a valid or invalid signal and then executes the command, by also transmitting a confirmation signal that the executed command has been completed using a timer within about .1 or .5 seconds, to additionally confirm to the user that the valid command to be executed has been performed, by transmitting the command signal after the command is carried out, where the response time can be varied based on the system/design (i.e. one-room, multi-rooms), preferably in a time period to inform the user that an action has been completed.

In considering claim 10,

Shintani does not explicitly disclose a video cassette recorder as a peripheral device in the described invention. Shintani does disclose integrating new components into the television entertainment system. Shintani discloses a peripheral device such as a mini-disk player (MDP) (col 5, line 29-35) which has been added to the entertainment system.

However, Shintani does disclose in the background of the invention that peripheral devices such as video cassette recorders, video disk players and audio equipment are connected to a television set (col 1, line 14-23).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Shintani which discloses an entertainment system including a TV and a mini-disk player by also including a video cassette recorder, as done conventionally to provide the user ability to control/use a variety of conventional devices in conjunction with the television.

In considering claim 16,

a) the claimed receiving a command from a host device is met by television 101 which receives a command instruction via remote control unit 100 (Fig 1)

b) the claimed modifying television operation based on the command signal is met where the television receives a command from the remote and the television sends a confirmation signal to remote 100 to confirm the receipt of a valid signal and then the TV 101 executes the command.

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b) the claimed transmitting a signal from the television to the host device is met by television 101 which also includes a similar communications unit (106 shown, specified as 105 in the specification (col 4, line 9-18), which transmits a signal back to remote 100 a confirmation signal when a valid command is received and then the command is executed, or if the TV 101 receives an invalid command, the TV transmits a signal to the remote 100 an error signal (col 4, line 30-37).

However, Shintani does not disclose a signal confirming the modification of the television operation.

Shintani discloses that the television sends a confirmation signal (second signal) to remote 100 to confirm the receipt of a valid signal and then the TV 101 executes the command (1st signal). Shintani also discloses that if the TV 101 receives an invalid command, the TV signals the remote 100 with an error signal (2nd signal), and the TV also signals the remote when the TV requires additional input in order to execute (col 2, line 47-56).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Shintani which discloses the acknowledgment of a valid or invalid signal and then executes the command, by also transmitting a confirmation signal that the executed command has been completed, to additionally confirm to the user that the valid command to be executed has been performed.

In considering claim 17,

As stated above, with respect to claim 16, Shintani did not disclose the transmitting a signal which confirms the television performed the function (command from remote). Shintani does disclose the transmitting/receiving of signals via communication line 102, which may be IR, RF, ultra-sonic or combinations thereof. Shintani also discloses the incorporation of peripheral devices into the entertainment system, being controlled by the remote and television.

The claimed processor is met by the television 101 in order to receive, transmit and process the signals between the peripheral devices and the remote.

Although, Shintani does not explicitly disclose a timer, Shintani does disclose the control via transmission/reception of peripheral devices which are integrated into the entertainment system, thereby being able to control multiple devices in a logical/desired sequence.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Shintani which discloses the acknowledgment of a valid or invalid signal and then executes the command, by also transmitting a confirmation signal that the executed command has been completed using a timer within about .1 or .5 seconds, to additionally confirm to the user that the valid command to be executed has been performed, by transmitting the command signal after the command is carried out, where the response time can be varied based on the system/design (i.e. one-room, multi-rooms), preferably in a time period to inform the user that an action has been completed.

In considering claim 18,
the claimed wherein the confirmation signal and the command signal comprises infrared signals is met where the communications between the remote 100 and TV 101 may be infra-red (IR) communication signals (col 4, line 9-18).

In considering claim 25,
a) the claimed a tuner adapted to received a television broadcast signal is met by television 101 which tunes to a desired channel/frequency (col 5, line 10-11);
b) the claimed a monitor adapted to display television images based on the television broadcast signal is met by television 101 and it's viewing screen (Fig 1);
c) the claimed an input device adapted to generate a request signal is met by remote control unit 100 which transmits an instruction via path 102 to television 101;
d) the claimed a closed loop controller, the closed loop controller adapted to receive the request signal, perform a television function based on the request signal is met by television 101 which receives the request from the remote 100 via path 102, where the televisions transmitter/receiver 106 receives the instruction and transmits a signal to remote 101 to confirm the receipt of a valid signal and then the TV 101 executes the command (1st signal).

However, Shintani does not disclose a confirmation signal which confirms when the television function is performed.

Shintani discloses that the television sends a confirmation signal to remote 100 to confirm the receipt of a valid signal and then the TV 101 executes the request signal.

Shintani also discloses that if the TV 101 receives an invalid command, the TV signals the remote 100 with an error signal, and the TV also signals the remote when the TV requires additional input in order to execute (col 2, line 47-56).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Shintani which discloses the acknowledgment of a valid or invalid signal and then executes the request, by also transmitting a confirmation signal that the executed request has been completed, to additionally confirm to the user that the valid request to be executed has been performed.

In considering claim 26,

Shintani does not specifically disclose preventing performance of further television functions until the confirmation signal for an immediately prior television function is successfully performed.

Shintani discloses that the television sends a confirmation signal to remote 100 to confirm the receipt of a valid signal and then the TV 101 executes the request signal. Shintani also discloses that if the TV 101 receives an invalid command, the TV signals the remote 100 with an error signal, and the TV also signals the remote when the TV requires additional input in order to execute (col 2, line 47-56).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Shintani, which discloses the reception of request signals via the remote, by controlling the TV to execute a command based on a valid request signal or requesting additional information in the event the TV requires additional

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information to execute a command, by ensuring that the command is executed prior to trying to implement another command (valid or invalid), in order to provide the user an efficient viewing environment and notifying the user on an command basis whether a request is valid/invalid and performed, before permitting the user to implement another command (which may be valid or invalid).

In considering claim 27,

The claimed wherein the request and confirmation signal are infrared signals and wherein the closed loop control system includes a infrared receiver, a processor, and a infrared transmitter, the infrared receiver receiving the request signal, the infrared transmitter transmitting the confirmation signal, is met where the communications between the remote 100 and TV 101 may be infra-red (IR) communication signals (col 4, line 9-18), where the remote and TV both include receivers and transmitters (IR), where both the remote and TV include processors to perform/generate the appropriate response/instruction based on the received/transmitted signals.

In considering claim 29,

The claimed wherein the host device is a television remote control unit is met by remote control unit 100 which controls the television 101 (Fig 1).

2c. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shintani et al., US 6,532,592 in view of Redford et al., US 5,839,905 and Escobosa et al., US 5,537,463.

In considering claim 7,

Shintani discloses a system where the transmitting/receiving of signals are performed via a communication line 102, which may be IR, RF, ultra-sonic or combinations thereof.

However, Shintani does not specifically disclose a 1200 baud, 8 bits byte, 1 start bit, 1 stop bit, no parity format packet modulated onto a 40 KHz carrier wave.

There are multitude of interface available to the user/designer, i.e. RS-232, RS-422, RS-423 and RS-485, of course based upon the needs of the user and equipment/peripheral devices being used.

Thus the examiner incorporates Redford et al., US 5,839,905 which discloses (col 20, line 21-31) transmitting infrared signals via a remote to host devices which utilizes the infrared RS232 serial link at 1200 baud modulated with a 40KHz carrier.

Although, Redford does not disclose the specifics on the RS-232 interface, the examiner incorporates Escobosa et al., US 5,537,463 which discloses (col 8, line 43-53) that the conventional RS-232 interface packet includes one start bit, one stop bit, 8 data bits and no parity.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify/utilize in Shintani which discloses the transmitting/reception of infrared signals

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via a remote 100 and television 101 to also include the controlling of other peripheral devices, by using a RS-232 interface as done by Redford, to transmit/receive information from the TV/remote and peripheral devices, where the data at 1200 baud modulated with a 40KHz, which includes the conventional RS-232 format as taught by Escobosa to include a packet with one start bit, one stop bit, 8 data bits and no parity, would provide the user/designer an existing transmission/reception scheme/interface in controlling the television and other peripheral devices.

2d. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shintani et al., US 6,532,592 in view of Redford et al., US 5,839,905, Escobosa et al., US 5,537,463 and Launey et al., US 5,086,385

In considering claim 8,

The combination of Shintani, Redford, and Escobosa does not disclose the specifics on the RS-232 interface connection, to include a command identifier byte. Escobosa does disclose a byte count, data bytes, and the checksum byte (col 8, line 43-53), which meets the claimed *data value byte* (data bytes) *and check sum byte* (checksum byte).

Shintani discloses a system where the transmitting/receiving of signals are performed via a communication line 102, which may be IR, RF, ultra-sonic or combinations thereof.

Redford et al., US 5,839,905 discloses (col 20, line 21-31) transmitting infrared signals via a remote to host devices which utilizes the infrared RS232 serial link at 1200 baud modulated with a 40KHz carrier.

Escobosa et al., US 5,537,463 which discloses (col 8, line 43-53) that the conventional RS-232 interface packet includes one start bit, one stop bit, 8 data bits and no parity. Escobosa does disclose a byte count, data bytes, and the checksum byte (col 8, line 43-53), which meets the claimed *data value byte and check sum byte*.

Thus the examiner incorporates Launey et al., US 5,086,385 which discloses an expandable home automation system which utilizes the RS-232 interface protocol, where the user may use an infrared hand-held remote (22, Fig 1) to command the central processor 10 (host) to perform various tasks, i.e. turn the TV on/off, scan the channels). Launey discloses that a task/command consists of a length byte, a command byte, data bytes and check-sum byte (Table 1, col 29).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify/utilize in Shintani which discloses the transmitting/reception of infrared signals via a remote 100 and television 101 to also include the controlling of other peripheral devices, by using a RS-232 interface as done by Redford, to transmit/receive information from the TV/remote and peripheral devices, where the data at 1200 baud modulated with a 40KHz, which includes the conventional RS-232 format as disclosed by Escobosa to include a packet with one start bit, one stop bit, 8 data bits and no parity, with Launey et al., in order to use the RS-232 protocol to communicate with devices by using the RS-232 protocol to include a command identifier

byte, which identifies the command to be carried out to provide the user/designer an existing transmission/reception scheme/interface in controlling the television and other peripheral devices via a remote control.

2e. Claims 14 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shintani et al., US 6,532,592 in view of applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA).

In considering claim 14,

Shintani does not explicitly disclose an input device is at least one switch provided on a television console.

Although, a television console which includes a switch is conventionally known in the art the examiner relies on the applicant's own admitted prior art. The applicant states (page 1, line 8-12), that it is known that television can be controlled by switches mounted to the console of the television.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Shintani which discloses an entertainment system which includes a television 101 and remote 100 where the remote and television transmit and received information to/from each other, to also utilize conventional switches on a television to control the television to provide the user the ability to control the TV with/without the remote control.

In considering claim 28,

Shintani does not explicitly disclose an input device which is mounted to the television.

Although, a television console which includes a switch is conventionally known in the art the examiner relies on the applicant's own admitted prior art. The applicant states (page 1, line 8-12), that it is known that television can be controlled by switches mounted to the console of the television.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Shintani which discloses an entertainment system which includes a television 101 and remote 100 where the remote and television transmit and received information to/from each other, to also utilize conventional switches on a television to control the television to provide the user the ability to control the TV with/without the remote control.

2f. Claims 19-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shintani et al., US 6,532,592 in view of Allport, US 6,097,441.

In considering claim 19,
a) the claimed a remote control device having an input apparatus and a transmitter, actuation of the input apparatus causing the transmitter to transmit a request signal is met by remote control 100 which includes a transmitter/receiver 107 where actuation of keys/buttons 104 (Fig 1) sends out a command/request signal.

However, Shintani does not disclose a separate remote control device and host device, nor does Shintani disclose transmitting a confirmation signal which that the function has been performed. Shintani discloses a remote control which performs the function of the remote control device and the host device. Shintani discloses a remote which receives a request via a user input (key 104) and generates a command signal via communications means 107 to transmit the command signal to television 101.

Although, it is conventional in the art to have a remote communicate to an intermediary (host/station) device which in turn communicates with the television, nonetheless the examiner incorporates Allport, US 6,097,441.

Allport discloses a system where base station 75 may be physically separate from a TV 80 and remote 10, or the base station may be implemented as an integrated part of the remote control 10 or of the TV 80 if desired (col 9, line 19-23).

Therefore, it would have been obvious one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Shintani, which discloses a remote control which receives a user's input and transmit/receives information to television 101, with Allport, by also utilizing a intermediary device (host) between the remote and TV, providing the user the flexibility to incorporate multiple remote controls units and added signal coverage (i.e. remote to host to TV, as opposed to remote to TV) into the entertainment system.

In regards to the confirmation that a signal has been performed.

Shintani discloses that the television sends a confirmation signal (second signal) to remote 100 to confirm the receipt of a valid signal and then the TV 101 executes the command (1st signal). Shintani also discloses that if the TV 101 receives an invalid

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command, the TV signals the remote 100 with an error signal (2nd signal), and the TV also signals the remote when the TV requires additional input in order to execute (col 2, line 47-56).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Shintani which discloses the acknowledgment of a valid or invalid signal and then executes the command, by also transmitting a confirmation signal that the executed command has been completed, to additionally confirm to the user that the valid command to be executed has been performed.

In considering claim 20,

Shintani does not disclose a plurality of television. Shintani discloses an entertainment system which includes a television 101 a remote control unit 100 and peripheral devices which have been integrated into the system (col 5, line 29-36).

The duplicating a part for a multiple effect has been considered to be an obvious modification to one of ordinary skill in the art (*In re Harza*, 274 F.2d 669, 671, 124 USP 378, 380 (CCPA 1960)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Shintani which discloses an entertainment system which includes a television unit 101 with a remote control unit 100, by including more than one television unit into the entertainment system, where the system can be incorporated into different/multiple rooms for different users, to provide the user(s) the ability to view/control more than one television.

In considering claim 21,
the claimed wherein the request, command and confirmation signal are infrared signals
is met where the communications between the remote 100 and TV 101 may be infra-red
(IR) communication signals (col 4, line 9-18).

In considering claim 22,
The claimed further including at least one peripheral device generating a request signal,
the host device being responsive to the request signal is met where a peripheral device
such as a mini-disk player (MDP) sends it's command set information to the television
101, where the television 101 in turn transmits the command set to the remote control
100, once the remote has received the command set, the remote will display the list of
available commands for the MDP (peripheral device) (col 5, line 44-49).

In considering claim 23,
Shintani does not explicitly disclose a video cassette recorder as a peripheral
device in the described invention. Shintani does disclose integrating new components
into the television entertainment system. Shintani disclose a peripheral device such as
a mini-disk player (MDP) (col 5, line 29-35) which has been added to the entertainment
system.

However, Shintani does disclose in the background of the invention that
peripheral devices such as video cassette recorders, video disk players and audio
equipment are connected to a television set (col 1, line 14-23).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Shintani which discloses an entertainment system including a TV and a mini-disk player by also including a video cassette recorder, as done conventionally to provide the user ability to control/use a variety of conventional devices in conjunction with the television.

In considering claim 24,
The claimed wherein the peripheral device is a digital video disc player is met where the peripheral device is a mini-disk player (MDP) (col 5, line 30-49).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Engel et al., US 6,028,866 discloses a system in which any apparatus can reliably communicate to a plurality of other apparatuses;

Seo et al., US 5,945,921 discloses a system for confirming remote control command response.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Yenke whose telephone number is (703) 305-9871. The examiner work schedule is Monday-Thursday, 0730-1830 hrs.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, John W. Miller, can be reached at (703)305-4795.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

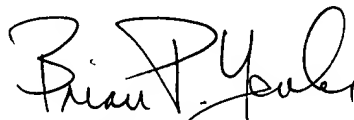
(703) 872-9314

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist). Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703)305-4700.



B.P.Y.

September 5, 2003



BRIAN P. YENKE
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2614